

**VEHICLE SEAT ASSEMBLY HAVING A
VEHICLE OCCUPANT SENSING SYSTEM AND
REINFORCING INSERTS POSITIONED THEREIN**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Accordingly, the present invention is a vehicle seat assembly including a lower seat cushion with an upper surface and a lower surface. The vehicle seat assembly also has a plurality of sensor assemblies positioned adjacent the lower surface of the lower seat cushion. The sensor assemblies are responsive to a condition of the lower seat cushion. The vehicle seat assembly also has at least one reinforcing insert disposed between at least one of the sensor assemblies and the lower surface of the lower seat cushion. One advantage of the present invention is that the reinforcing insert protects the lower seat cushion by more evenly distributing pressure from the sensor assemblies onto the lower seat cushion. As such, the lower seat cushion is less likely to prematurely wear and is thus more likely to remain comfortable to sit upon over the course of its operating lifetime.